### **State Commission on Fatherhood Members**

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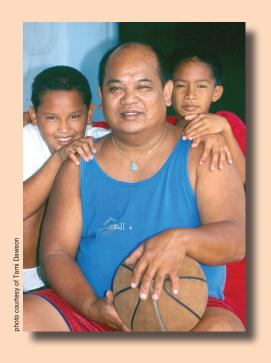
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For more information on the Commission on Fatherhood, please direct inquiries to Henry Oliva (henryoliva@hawaii.gov).

# STATE COMMISSION ON FATHERHOOD



I remember my father's final lesson. My boy will learn by what I am and what I do far more than what I tell him.

Norman Lewis Smith, American writer

Act 156, Session Laws of Hawaii 2003 indicates that the role of fathers in the raising of children and in the health and well-being of families is often unintentionally overlooked and established the State Commission on Fatherhood to promote healthy family relationships between parents and children.

## The Commission's strategic plan encompasses the following activities:

- Acting as a central clearinghouse and coordinating body on fatherhood
- Identifying best practices in programs and services for fathers
- Identifying the obstacles that impede the involvement of fathers in the lives of their children
- Raising public awareness about the importance of fathers
- Recommending public policies and practices that support fathers





## When fathers are present, their children have:\*

- Better school performance. Children perform better in school, both academically and socially, when their fathers are involved in their education, such as attending meetings and volunteering at school.
- Less high-risk behaviors. Children with involved, loving fathers are less likely to engage in behaviors such as drug use, truancy, and criminal activity.
- **Higher self esteem**. Children who have good relationships with their fathers have higher self esteem and lower depression.
- Less substance use. The closer that teens are to their fathers, the less likely they are to use drugs.

\*Source: Sylvester, Kathleen & Reich, Kathleen (2002). *Making Fathers Count*. Washington, DC: The Social Policy Action Network (SPAN).